UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

A/51/879
S/1997/322
21 April 1997

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Fifty-first session
Agenda item 58
QUESTION OF CYPRUS

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-second year

Letter dated 17 April 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, recorded on 11 April 1997.

On 11 April 1997, 18 Turkish F-16 military planes, flying in formation of 4 at a time, from 0820 to 1135 hours, violated the Nicosia flight information region and national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus. The planes flew over the areas of the Monastery of Ayios Andreas and Cape Crecco, and then exited heading towards Turkey.

These Turkish actions heighten tension in Cyprus and are in contravention of the provisions of repeated Security Council resolution on Cyprus, which state that such overflights increase political tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement. At the same time, such unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and the airspace of the Republic are in violation of international air traffic rules and seriously endanger civil aviation flights over Cyprus.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to protest strongly against the new violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus. These violations are in complete disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus. Moreover, they continue to take place at a sensitive phase of the efforts to resume the inter-communal talks under your auspices.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the fifty-first session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 58, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nicos AGATHOCLEOUS
Ambassador, Permanent Representative